

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: To Be Assigned
Applicants: Robert Joseph Panek, Jr., John C. Japuntich, and James A. Arendt
Filed: Herewith
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR UNWINDING A NEEDLE PORTION
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

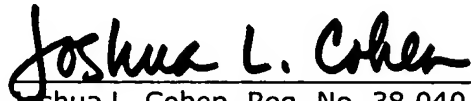
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Christopher M. Spletzer, Reg. No. 52,240
Attorneys for Applicants

JLC/CMS/lcf

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449

Dated: November 25, 2003

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EXPRESS MAIL

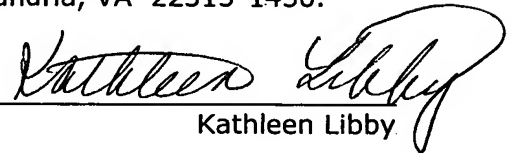
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November 25, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Kathleen Libby

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number To Be Assigned

Filing Date Herewith

First Named Inventor Robert Joseph Panek, Jr

Art Unit To Be Assigned

Examiner Name To Be Assigned

SHEET 1 of 2

Attorney Docket No. TCO1-101US2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,466,538	08/1984	Gianni, Richard F.	
		US-4,494,652	01/1985	Nelson, et al.	
		US-4,801,013	01/1989	Bruno, John	
		US-4,986,811	01/1991	Thead, et al.	
		US-4,989,307	02/1991	Sharpe, et al.	
		US-5,069,667	12/1991	Freundlich, et al.	
		US-5,188,598	02/1993	Thead, et al.	
		US-5,322,164	06/1994	Richardson, et al.	
		US-5,409,113	04/1995	Richardson, et al.	
		US-5,573,113	11/1996	Shillington, et al.	
		US-6,019,218	02/2000	Racicot, et al.	
		US-6,158,314	12/2000	Thead, et al.	
		US-4,576,281	03/1986	Kirksey, Patricia E.	
		US-4,488,643	12/1984	Pepper, Kenneth V.	
		US-5,092,462	03/1992	Sagstetter, et al.	
		US-6,474,472	11/2002	Shaw, Thomas J.	
		US-6,253,916	07/2001	Bickel, Christopher R.	
		US-6,062,001	05/2000	Kunik, Burton J.	
		US-6,027,392	02/2000	Ruhlman, Maegan	
		US-5,857,569	01/1999	Hoftman, et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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	Application Number	To Be Assigned
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	First Named Inventor	Robert Joseph Panek, Jr
	Art Unit	To Be Assigned
	Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
	SHEET 2 of 2	Attorney Docket No.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

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